

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4418

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VIRTUALLY NO DISCERNIBLE PROGRESS AWAY
FROM STATUS QUO

REF: CAPE TOWN 073

1. CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUNO TOLD POL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 15
THAT HE UNDERSTANDS SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL "SEND
INVITATIONS" IN MARCH TO THOSE WHOM IT WANTS TO ATTEND
MULTIRACIAL TALKS ON FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. ANOTHER RELIABLE
SOURCE IN WINDHOEK BELIEVES TALKS WILL BEGIN IN LATE MARCH
OR IN APRIL, AFTER KAVANGO AND EAST CAPRIVI LEGISLATIVE
COUNCILS HAVE MET AND SELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND TALKS.

2. KAPUUNO SAID HE DEFINITELY WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS.
ALTHOUGH SOME ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MAKE UP NAMIBIAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION (NNC), VIZ., SWANU AND DAMARA TRIBAL EXECUTIVE,
ARE AGAINST TAKING PART IN TALKS, KAPUUNO SAID MAJORITY OR
NNC IS IN FAVOR. PROBLEM IS THAT RULING WHITES CONTINUE TO
INSIST THAT THEY WILL TALK WITH BONA FIDE REPRESENTATIVES OF
VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS BUT NOT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
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POLITICAL PARTIES. KAPUUNO ADAMANT THAT NNC MUST BE ALLOWED

PARTICIPATE, AND INDICATED HE HOPING TO WORK A COMPROMISE WITH NP'S DIRK MUDGE IN ORDER FOR THIS TO COME ABOUT.

3. KAPUUO EVEN MORE ADAMANT THAT SWAPO HAS NO RIGHT TO CLAIM TO BE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL NAMIBIANS. HE ALLEGED THAT SWAPO IS WORKING "TO DESTROY" NNC IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT SWAPO IS ONLY VIABLE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN TERRITORY. TO UNDERLINE HIS CONTENTION THAT SWAPO IS BUT ONE OF MANY NAMIBIAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, KAPUUO SAID SWANU'S SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JOHN MUUNDJUA TOLD HIM RECENTLY THAT WHEN MUUNDJUA AND SWANU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN GERSON VEII SAW SEAN MCBRIDE IN NEW YORK IN NOVEMBER, MCBRIDE ADMITTED TO THEM THAT SWAPO DOES NOT REPRESENT ALL NAMIBIANS. MCBRIDE TOLD THEM, HOWEVER, THAT UN AND OAU HAD COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO RECOGNITION OF SWAPO AND CANNOT SEE HOW THIS CAN BE REVERSED.

4. AT SAME TIME THAT THORNY ISSUE OF WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN MULTIRACIAL TALKS REMAINS UNDECIDED, WHITES HAVE MADE NO INNOVATIONS TO REDUCE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. KAPUUO AND OTHER INFORMED NAMIBIAN SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT ABSOLUTELY NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE DESPITE INTIMATIONS BY SOME WHITE LEADERS THAT POSITIVE CHANGES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

5. COMMENT: IN REFTTEL, EMBASSY SUGGESTED AN APPROACH WHICH US MIGHT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH, MAKE TO SAG RE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. OUR SUGGESTION DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION ACTIONS TO DIMINISH RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AND PRACTICES. HOWEVER, PRESENTENT TOLBERT'S COMMENTS TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ABOUT NAMIBIA UNDERLINE THAT AFRICANS WANT TO SEE SOME CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT CHANGE IS UNDER WAY IN THE TERRITORY. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE BELIEVE THAT, IN ADDITION TO ENCOURAGING SAG TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA WITH ZAMBIANS AND OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WE COULD SUGGEST TO SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEY MIGHT BUY SOME GOOD WILL WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES BY TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS TO REDUCE DISCRIMINATION IN NAMIBIA.
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